

METHOD OF EARLY BUFFER RETURNAbstract of the Disclosure

5           A method includes a link receiver (304) providing a plurality of data credits (320) to a link transmitter (302) and the link transmitter transmitting a packet (325) to the link receiver, where the link transmitter takes the packet from one of a plurality of logical channels (318), and where the link transmitter selects from which of the plurality of channels to draw the packet. The link receiver transmits a flow control packet (332) to the  
10 link transmitter to add additional data credits (334) to the plurality of data credits, where the link transmitter selects to which of the plurality of logical channels to allocate the additional data credits. A plurality of receiver buffers (322) are placed into a free buffer pool (330) as the packet is transmitting out of the plurality of receiver buffers, where the free buffer pool corresponds to additional data credits. The link receiver transmitting the  
15 flow control packet to the link transmitter on the reverse link (314) if the free buffer pool contains additional data credits and the reverse link is idle.